

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing calls through an entertainment center, comprising:
sending a signal indicating that there is an incoming call; and
handling the incoming call in accordance with a selected call handling
option presented over the entertainment center.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising buffering a program
being played through the entertainment center when the signal indicating that there is an
incoming call is received.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising buffering a program
being played through the entertainment center in response to a specific subscriber request.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selected call handling
option is chosen from a group comprising take the call, send the call to voice mail, forward the
call to another number, play a message, ignore the call and reject the call.

5. A call management system comprising:
a call management server residing in a telephony provider network; and
a television call manager connected to an entertainment center to receive
a signal from the call management server indicating that an incoming call is waiting at the call
management server.

6. The call management system as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a
television buffering device connected to the entertainment center to buffer and record a
television program played through the entertainment center in response to a signal transmitted
from the television call manager when a call is waiting at the call management server.

7. The call management system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the incoming
call is handled in accordance with a selected call handling option.

8. The call management system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the call
handling options are displayed through the entertainment center.

9. The call management system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the selected call handling option is chosen from a group comprising take the call, send the call to voice mail, forward the call to another number, play a message, ignore the call and reject the call.

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10. The call management system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a remote control device in communication with the television call manager, wherein a subscriber selects a call handling option with the remote control device.

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11. The call management system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the entertainment center includes a television.

12. The call management system as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a television detector in communication with the television to detect when the television is on and to signal the call manager that incoming calls should be routed through the call management system.

13. The call management system as claimed in claim 5, wherein a caller identification corresponding to the incoming call is displayed through the entertainment center when an incoming call is waiting at the call management server.

14. The call management system as claimed in claim 7, wherein if the selected call handling option is to take the call, the call management server forwards the call to the television call manager.

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15. The call management system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the call is answered through the home entertainment center.

16. The call management system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a television buffering device connected to the entertainment center to buffer and record a television program played through the entertainment center in response to selecting the call handling option if the selected call handling option is to take the call.

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17. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the incoming call corresponds to an incoming text message.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the text message is displayed through the home entertainment center.

19. A method of managing calls through an entertainment center, comprising:
receiving an incoming call through the entertainment center;
automatically pausing and recording a television program played through the entertainment center when the incoming call is received; and
resuming the television program when the incoming call is terminated.

20. A method of managing calls through an entertainment center, comprising:
receiving an incoming call;
pausing a program played through the entertainment center;
displaying a menu on a display of the entertainment center;
prompting a subscriber to select a call handling option from the menu displayed on the entertainment center;
executing a selected call handling option; and
unpausing the program played through the entertainment center.

21. A method of managing calls through an entertainment center, comprising:
means for sending a signal indicating that there is an incoming call; and
means for handling the incoming call in accordance with a selected call handling option presented over the entertainment center.